



MISS ANN CATLEY.

Taken at the Age of Thirty.

Published as the Act directs, by J Bird, Nov. 11. 1789.



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THE
LIFE AND MEMOIRS
OF THE LATE
Miss Ann Catley,
THE CELEBRATED ACTRESS:

WITH
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF
SIR FRANCIS BLAKE DELAVAL,
AND
THE HON. ISABELLA PAWLET,
DAUGHTER TO THE EARL OF THANET.

BY MISS AMBROSS.

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TO THE PUBLIC.

THE following Life of Miss Catley has not, like many other biographical essays on the actions and characters of eminent persons, been compiled from newspapers and unauthenticated anecdotes, but is the production of a female long and intimately known to Miss Catley. Every circumstance is given with impartiality. She has followed the advice of Othello, when he desires those present, at his death, to speak of him as he deserves,

“ ————Nothing extenuate,
“ Nor aught set down in malice.”

The lives of great men have ever been recorded by their cotemporary literati, and it is much to be regretted that the same attention has not been paid to the other sex. Except the lives of the Empreſſes, a few flight sketches of the Roman matrons, and
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of two ancient courtezans, Phryne and Messelina, great women have been overlooked, and yet in their lives, if faithfully reported, would have discovered those hidden and subtle springs by which states have been overthrown, and revolutions brought about.

It is not pretended that the Heroine of these sheets ever dipped in politics, but the perusal of her life will operate as a cautionary example to warn others of her sex from vice, and to prove that true happiness can only be found in the exercise of virtue.

T H E
L I F E
OF THE LATE
MISS ANN CATLEY.

IN this free country where wealth is the source of honors, and virtue is generally its own reward—where titles are not solely conferred upon those who distinguish themselves as patriots or soldiers by wise, brave and noble actions, but are often bestowed upon the servile sycophants of a court, or on the implicit tools of a minister, the emblazon of a genealogy, if executed with candour and truth, would display stains and spots in every quarter. True dignity must spring from the heart alone, and can only be illustrated by the actions of the individual—Titles created by Princes are superficial, like embroidery on a garment they dazzle the eye, but are of no intrinsic use to the wearer. The writ or

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letters

letters patent, of a King, may make a lord of a clown or a baronet of a knave, but they cannot constitute him either a gentleman or an honest man. Without the qualities of polished manners and integrity, a ducal coronet, with all the blood of all the Howards to embellish and encrease its lustre, would not attach respect to the wearer. The virtues of our ancestors may render the vices of their successors conspicuous; but those who depend on the characters of their forefathers, as the foundation of their reputation, will soon experience the vanity of such a dependance, and be convinced that mankind are tried on the evidence of their own actions.

The late Ann Catley, who is the subject of these memoirs, comes before the ordeal of public opinion without any aid from lineal or colateral ancestors, and appears "herself alone" depending solely on her own merits. She was born in an obscure Alley off Tower Hill, in the year 1745, where her Parents then resided; her father following the occupation of a hackney coachman, and her mother that of a washer-woman; but even this junction of professions produced a very scanty provision to the family, particularly as Mr. Catley not only spent his own profits upon himself, but often appropriated to his separate use, the earnings of his wife.

Nan

Nan at a very early age was obliged to apply herself to industry, by assisting her mother, not only at the tub, but by carrying out the clean linen and fetching home the foul; and being smart in her person, and of a merry countenance, she attracted the notice of the customers, who often made her presents of victuals and trifling articles of wearing apparel.

Mrs. Catley officiated as laundress to several of the officers quartered in the Tower, and among these was Colonel L— well known at present for his attachment to his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales.—At the time the Colonel became acquainted with Nan, he was ill, and she often entertained him with a song; she then was in her tenth year, and probably he was the first who discovered the sweetness and powers of her voice, which soon after rendered her a favourite in all the public houses in the neighbourhood, at one or other of which she attended every evening and raised very liberal contributions from the company by singing.

The parade at the Tower, was however the principal place from whence Nan drew pecuniary aids. She was pretty, knowing and humorous in her conversation, which from the lowness of her situation, though witty and pointed, was too often gross and li-

centious.—Though of a thin habit of body, Nan was warm in her constitution. Her admirers increased with her years, the whole corps of officers regarded her with wishful eyes, and at thirteen many serious overtures of love had been made her, and innumerable schemes were continually laid for her seduction.

Though suspicions have been strong, it has never been brought into actual proof, that, Nan surrendered the chastity of her person to any of that numerous corps of military admirers who daily laid siege to her, while she resided in the vicinity of the Tower; yet certain it is, that she had scarcely entered her fourteenth year when she parted with her innocence: and indeed it is not matter of wonder, that a young girl of high vivacity, whose juvenile mind had been corrupt, even from early infancy should be easily persuaded to submit her person to the lascivious pleasures of pollution. The ill treatment which she constantly experienced from her parents may also be considered another cause that tended to this event. They constantly called her to a strict account of her earnings, and when these were inadequate to their expectations, they as constantly punished her, with unmerited and inhuman severity.

A linen draper, who resided in the Minories,

ries, had long considered the charms of Nan with a sensual appetite. He frequently saw her at the different Public Houses in the neighbourhood to which he resorted, and often rewarded her with a liberality that raised the sensations of gratitude in her mind. Nan having staid from home one evening rather later than ordinary, and not having been successful in her avocation, was received on her return, as had often been the case, with abuse, curses and blows, in resentment for which she left the habitation of her parents, fully determined to accept the first asylum that offered. The retailer of linens had just reached his door as Nan came up to it. He at first mistook her for one of those little nocturnal itinerants who stroll the streets and prostitute their persons to obtain a wretched subsistence, and he being of that class of men, whose enjoyments are merely animal and who are ever on the hunt for variety, he followed the little adventures for the purpose of picking her up. Great indeed was the surprise and infinite the joy of this nightly prowler after female flesh, when Nan returned his first address of, "a fine evening my dear," by throwing out a few bars of a tune which she sung with peculiar excellence, and which always had been his favourite. Every note struck upon his heart, which trembled in unison, and communicated its thrills through the whole nervous

nervous system.—In a word, the sympathetic effect was universal on his frame—

“ In his head—in his heart

“ In every part

“ She subdued both his body and mind.

It was now rather late, the air was eager, nipping and damp—it was such a night, to adopt the language of Shakespear's fool in the tragedy of Lear, as would “cool a courtesan”—but Nan was in the “hey day of her blood” and her hand which the fortunate linen draper had pressed between his, communicated an amorous fire to his soul—He had luckily the key of his street door in his pocket, and the object of his desires being resolved not to return home, and having no certain place where she could seek for a lodging was easily persuaded to enter the house, where she found a clean and comfortable bed chamber, a clear and glowing fire, and plenty of sound exhilarating old red port—The kiss and the glass for some time went round, till the amorous draper being wound to the utmost pitch of impatience led her, “she nothing loath” to a situation from which they soon returned to the bottle—then,

“ Each touch of her lip made the wine sparkle higher,

“ And her eyes by her drinking redoubled the fire—”

Here we close the scene with just observing, they passed the night in extacies too strong
to

to last for ever ; but with the morn cold indifference did not return, and Nan remained in the draper's house a full week, enjoying the pleasures of love and wine.

Her parents who had benefited so much by her talents, now discovered her value, and sorely repented of that savage and cruel treatment which had forced her from their house. Every brothel within a mile of the Tower was searched in vain for the little truant :— The strictest enquiry was made from the officers in the garrison, but without effect ; when one morning miss unexpectedly made her appearance, dressed in a stile of gentility which she owed to the generosity of her lover.

The loss of that bright and illustrious jewel chastity, gave no material uneasiness to Mr. or Mrs. Catley, she brought home a gem of infinitely greater value, her fine voice which had so often produced them meat, drink, and cloaths ; their anger therefore on account of her elopement, as well as their regret for her loss, was instantly removed by her appearance, they received her like the prodigal returned, and she lived for some time with them in a tollerably comfortable way, paying occasional visits to her lover in the Minories ; but after this event she never more resorted
to

to the public houses, though she frequently sported her person in the Tower.

To Miss Catley's disposition no sentiment could be more applicable than that put into the mouth of the lascivious Euphrosyne in Comus—

“ All I ask of mortal man,
“ Is to love me while he can.”

And the linen-draper having towards the end of a month, either exhausted his stock of amorous fire, or, being fully sated with six days and nights feasting on the luscious banquet of Nan's beauties, broke a connection which, had it existed for any considerable length of time, would infallibly have broke him.

Nan being now fully initiated in the mysteries of love, resolved to indulge in them for the purposes of pecuniary advantage, as well as sensual gratification.—The covert-way had been carried, the breast-work lay open, and the citadel was ready to receive any adventurer who chose to enter; provided he appeared at the breach like Philip of Macedon, cash in hand; in short from this time till she attained her sixteenth year, her intrigues were various, but of a nature too low and indiscriminate to afford entertainment, or indeed

deed to admit of particular description, for like the Irish barrister, Nan not only practiced *crown* but *half crown* business, taking every fee that was offered.

We come now to a very particular event in this lady's life, her connection with Sir Francis Blake Delaval, which made a considerable noise in the world, and produced a legal decision as remarkable as ever was entered on the records of the court of King's-Bench: but before we report the circumstances of this amour, it will be necessary to give a slight account of the hero who is to act the principal character, and a true delineation of his character.

Sir Francis Blake Delaval was a gentleman of high and respectable family; being son to a baronet, and related nearly by blood and affinity to several of the nobility. His person was elegant, his face handsome, his manners polished, his education liberal, his conversation sprightly and pleasing. Few men possessed so many of those qualities which fascinate the ladies, and few ever succeeded better in obtaining their favours by humbling their proud hearts. When very young this gentleman dissipated his patrimony on women and play, till at last his finances being reduced to the lowest ebb, necessity forced
C him

him to relieve them by fortune-hunting, a resource truly despicable.

The object fixed upon as the means of repairing his shattered fortune, was lady Isabella Pawlet, daughter to the earl of Thanet. This lady possessed a very considerable fortune, with a very plain person and face, and though her character was unstained by any actual charge of incontinence, yet her conduct gave sufficient ground for supposing that chastity was not to be imputed to her as a fault, but rather as a misfortune, and though it was certainly false, there was a report that she had put it into the power of the celebrated Samuel Foote to prove that her ladyship was a woman.

The truth is, lady Isabella Pawlet had a penchant for the humorist, and if he had not been restrained from matrimony, by having previously entered into the indissoluble noose of Hymen, there is scarcely a doubt that he would have refused the acceptance of a considerable fortune on any terms; but this being impossible, he resolved to come in for a share, and fixed upon Delaval, with whom he had long lived on terms of intimacy, as a proper instrument.

Lady Isabella was a dupe to superstition. The old Gipsy woman at Norwood, whom
she

she frequently visited, stood higher in her estimation than Boyle or Newton, and she put more confidence in the presages of an astrologer who resided up four pair of stairs in the Old Baily, than ever was placed in Copernicus.

Foote having informed his friend Delaval of the lady's foible, they came to an agreement, by which the pandar was to have an annuity of five hundred pounds a year, and the principal was to enjoy the remainder of the lady's fortune. A maid servant was bribed to betray her lady, and the conspirators having received information from her of a particular day when her ladyship was to consult a celebrated conjurer, to whom, at that time, several women even of the first fashion paid frequent visits, to this imposing rascal, Mr. Delaval and his friend Foote immediately repaired, and having secured his services by a few guineas, informed him of several of the most remarkable incidents in lady Isabella's life, the conjurer at the same time taking an exact survey of Mr. Delaval's face and figure, for a purpose which shall appear presently.

Lady Isabella soon after arrived, accompanied by her treacherous attendant, who by a sign previously agreed upon, informed the imposter who his visiter was. The answers

given to the interrogatories of her ladyship, and to the prepared questions occasionally slipped in by her cunning abigail, left no doubt on her mind of the conjurers extraordinary and supernatural powers, and of course brought forward the material enquiry respecting marriage, which is generally the great end of all such applications.

The imposter now pretended to consult a planetary system that lay before him on his table. Having deliberately taken off a pair of large spectacles, and turned up his eyes towards Heaven, he muttered over the names given to the signs of the zodiac and fixed stars, —he drew a number of circles and lines with white lead upon black paper, and at last with a grave face described the person and features of Mr. Delaval.

Lady Isabella delighted at the description of her intended *cara sposa*, rewarded the conjurer liberally, and would now have retired, but her well instructed companion pretending a tender interest in the future fortune of her mistress, urged for further information, particularly as to the time when, and the place where this lover was to be seen. The wizard answered that he could certainly communicate such information, but must first consult his familiar spirit in an adjacent room,
and

and immediately retired to Delaval and Foote who sat in an adjacent room, where having waited a few minutes in consultation, he returned to the women, and found lady Isabella almost maddened with anxious expectation. He told her that the gentleman to whom the fates had destined her hand, would be walking the next day at twelve o'clock by the side of the canal in the Green Park, but cautioned her not to speak first, as that would break the charm, and having received another fee for his pleasing news, lady Isabella returned home in rapture.

The description of the charming man described by the conjurer, had taken possession of this unfortunate lady's brain; she could not eat during the day, nor sleep during the night.—The morning Sun, on rising, found her at her toilette culling ornaments, painting, washing, and perfuming; and she involuntarily rambled to the place of appointment an hour before the time.—During this hour, this infatuated dupe to imposition kept her eyes rivetted on the park gate, and every time it opened trembled from head to foot with anxious expectation.—Her repeater at last struck twelve, and at that instant Mr. Delaval appeared, dressed in every point exactly as the conjurer had described.

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The sudden appearance of the gentleman extorted the ejaculation of "O! Heavens" from the lady, which was followed with "Lord preserve us" from the maid; but Mr. Delaval continued to pass and repass them several times without turning his eyes towards the seat, which was indeed a necessary precaution, as he was ready to burst into loud laughter every instant;—at last looking full at lady Isabella, he bowed respectfully, and she returning the salute, he walked towards her and commenced a conversation.

The surprize of the lady having by degrees subsided, she discovered on recovering her senses that the stranger held her hand; she reluctantly drew it from him, at the same time heaving a deep sigh, which he resposued with all the softness of sympathetic tenderness. Before they parted an assignation was made for a future meeting at the same place, and the swain took leave with an affected warmth of passion and respect, that totally threw the lady off her guard, and expelled from her mind all considerations but those of romantic love.

Delaval on separating flew to inform Foote of his success, and then retired to indulge in tender dalliance with a favourite nymph in King's-place.—Lady Isabella locked herself within her chamber, there to contemplate in rapture on the conquest she had made—or rather

rather indeed on the lover, who, in her opinion, Heaven in its bounty had created for her special use. The more she thought the more she became enamoured, and the second meeting totally overturned every idea that prudence suggested—Delaval

“ ———— Could impart,
“ The loosest wishes to the chastest heart.”—

And lady Isabella was now at that age when the heart is tender, though the flesh was tough; she was approaching towards that grand climactic which brings despair to virgins, and having long regretted her situation, she was resolved not to lose the present opportunity of doing all within her power for the good of her generation, and to remove from herself that most horrid of all horrid epithets to a woman's ear, an old maid.—The marriage therefore was soon celebrated and consummated much to the satisfaction of the bride—but Sir Francis felt himself rather uneasy on the occasion, which however he attempted to put off with a laugh, and having been asked by a friend how he could think of marrying so ordinary a woman, answered—“I married her for weight and paid nothing for fashion.”

Had lady Isabella been a Venus in beauty, and endowed with the wisdom of Pallas, she would have found her charms of body and
mind

mind unequal to fix the heart of Mr. Delaval, ever on search for variety and never satisfied with any single object. But in truth her ladyship was destitute not only of personal charms but mental allurements—her conversation was as plain as her face.

A young lady named Le Roche, lived at this time under the protection of a near female relative to Mr. Delaval, and was supposed by many to be a natural daughter to one of the family. In the seduction of this girl he soon succeeded, her mind was weak her constitution meretricious, and instead of retreating from the overtures of his passion, she met his libidinous affections with ardour, and lived with him as a mistress for a considerable time—indeed it was a doubtful point whether she was the seducer or the seduced.

This inconstancy of Mr. Delaval, naturally excited resentment in his lady. Female pride could not patiently submit to so gross an insult. She saw her fortune bestowed upon a courtesan; she felt that the husband to whom she had administered the means of indulging his pleasures affronted her by publicly appearing and living with his mistress, and privately treating her, his wife, with neglect and even contempt that evinced disgust—This roused her to revenge. She upbraided

braided her husband with bitterness, he answered with cutting coolness, and in the height of one of their disputes, discovered the secret of the conjurer.

Lady Isabella consulted her friends on this occasion and they brought in the aid of the law. A case was drawn and a suit of divorce was determined on, upon the grounds that Mr. Delaval had committed adultery with Miss Roche. On the truth of this charge there could not be a doubt, but lady Isabella failed in the proof. The witnesses gave evidence of the parties having rode out together, having dined together, having lain in the same house together, but could not prove their having lain in the same bed together, or the commission of any act of adultery.

Mr. Delaval thinking he had no defence to make, resolved upon obviating the effect of his wife's complaint, which if established would have materially injured his fortune, and therefore he set up a charge of recrimination.

This charge states that a person named Craig, took a woman with him to Haddocks Bagnio, Charing Cross, on the evening of a day when Mr. Delaval had invited some company, to meet him at the Cardigan's
D Head

Head Tavern, Charing Cross, among whom was the late Mr. Robert Quaime. To this company he communicated that he had long believed his wife to be inconstant, and had received information that she was to be that night at Haddock's Bagnio with a man who went by the name of Brown, that he intended to be convinced of the truth, and requested that the company would go to the Bagnio in order to see if they could detect her in bed with her paramour. One Dupree was then dispatched to the Bagnio, and soon sent back a messenger to inform Mr. Delaval that his wife was arrived. The company then went to the Bagnio, when Dupree opened a room door where lady Isabella was said to be, and where they saw a man and woman in naked bed together, whom one of the witnesses named Shaw swore was lady Isabella, but in this he was not corroborated by any of the other witnesses. It was also deposed that her ladyship passed by the name of Brown and met Craig who also assumed that name at a lodging in Beaufort Buildings, where they passed for man and wife; but the general opinion was, that the whole of the evidence against lady Isabella was fabricated and false, and that her witnesses had been tampered with and suborned—This suit in the commons of course terminated all connubial connection between Mr. Delaval and his

his wife, nor did his intimacy with Miss Roche continue much longer.

As there is something particular and interesting in the story of this lady though it is not immediately connected with the memoirs of Nan, yet the reader will find entertainment from the perusal.

Sir Henry Echlin an Irish baronet, who possessed a very considerable estate at Rush, near Dublin, having seen Miss Roche became enamoured of her beauty and indeed it must be allowed her charms were attractive.

Sir Henry was a young man of very weak intellects in worldly matters, extremely dissipated, naturally extravagant and totally devoid of foresight—He had been a dupe to gamblers, money lenders, bullying captains, bawds and panders, and yet he was a man of liberal education, elegant address and master of all the polite languages. Probably he winked at the faux pas imputed by public report to Miss Roche, who conducted herself with such cunning that his addresses terminated in a marriage.

Sir Henry soon after this happy event returned to his native country accompanied by his lady and a gentleman who lived with him as a confidential friend. On this journey lady

Echlin who delighted in variety seduced the friend of her husband, making him dupe to his own dishonour, and he was the only person of a large company who travelled with them, who did not see the gross conduct of his wife.

Soon after their arrival in Ireland this intrigue came glaring in his face, and had he permitted his wife to live with him every boy would have hooted the cuckold—no legal steps however were taken in consequence of her conduct, but by mutual consent they separated from bed and board; Sir Henry remaining at his country seat, and his lady removing to elegant lodgings in Capel Street, Dublin.

In this situation lady Echlin gave loose to that furor which had long heated her blood—She formed a connection with the son of an attorney, a stupid creature destitute of every quality that was not merely animal—another and another soon succeeded—man was her object, sensuality her pursuit—“every rank fool went down.”

A conduct so obnoxious to scandal, so foreign to the delicacy of her sex soon reduced her to a state of contempt. Where ever she appeared the women retreated and even the men were ashamed to shew her countenance

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in public. This marked, yet just punishment of her offences rendered Dublin a solitude—she found herself without society and daily experienced insult, to avoid which she made a trip to London.

This was only changing the scene—In London her pursuits were the same as in Dublin, and it is generally believed that in a few years after she died miserably in the garret of a wretched lodging house in one of the Alleys off Drury Lane.

The pursuits of Sir Henry were not more reputable than those of his lady. M—k—n the actor had brought over to Dublin two theatrical pupils, the Am——s who were sisters and jewesses. With these ladies Sir Henry formed a family connection. He took them and their mother into his house, lay in the same bed with the daughters, and the tongue of scandal went so far as to assert that the old gentlewoman did not pass unnoticed. His house exhibited a scene of continued revelling, debauchery and extravagance—mortgage followed mortgage—foreclosures produced sales, till at last the unhappy baronet was obliged to fly his country, and was so reduced in circumstance that he officiated in a tavern at Paris in the degrading situation of a waiter. Recently however he has emerged from that degenerate

degenerate situation and has received a trifling pension for the performance of secret services.

From this digression it is time to advert to the heroine of these memoirs. The fame of Nan's voice having gone abroad, one Bates a musick master and chorus singer at one of the Theatres took her as an apprentice for seven years, she being then in her sixteenth year for the purpose of teaching her music, the father being bound in a penalty of two hundred pounds in case she should misbehave by running away when qualified to be profitable to the master. Her conduct while with Bates was extremely irregular; she followed her own inclinations in every respect. Formed repeated connections and turned his advice and instructions into ridicule. For three years she persevered in this kind of behaviour and was nineteen years of age when Sir Francis Blake Delaval became acquainted with her. He had seen her at Marybone Gardens where she sung, and had also met her repeatedly at the house of Mr. M—k—n the comedian, who was then instructing her for the stage, with the consent of her master.

An intimacy and criminal correspondence was soon the consequence of this acquaintance, and Nan having as has been already stated committed on other occasions repeated
irregu-

irregularities ; Bates her master threatned to turn her out of doors and to sue her father for the penalty on breaking the articles.

These threats being reported to Sir Francis he immediately took a lodging for her and her mother who was privy to the intrigue, and who had abandoned the labour of the washing tub, to live more comfortably on the earnings of her daughters prostitution. The lodging was furnished by the knight in a stile of elegance and the master agreed to allow her five and twenty pounds a year in lieu of board, reserving to himself the whole of her earnings as a singer at Marybone Gardens and Covent Garden Theatre, where, through the interest of Mr. M—k—n, she was to be introduced as an actress in the operatical line

Nan disliking the authority which her music-master still retained over her person, and having acquired irresistable influence over the mind of her lover, perswaded him to pay Bates the penalty of two hundred pounds, to which her father was liable by his bond, and also two hundred pounds more, in consideration for her professional earning during the season ; after which she agreed (with the consent of Bates) to bind herself apprentice to Sir Francis for the residue of the term, in the common

common form, and with the usual covenants of such indentures, and also a special covenant not to leave Sir Francis's house, Sir Francis covenanting to instruct her, or cause her to be instructed in the art of music.

Mr. Fraine, a man of reputation in his profession, was attorney to this transaction; and having made Miss Catley's father a party to the indenture brought it to him to execute, he being then in the service of Mr. Berkley, an eminent quaker in Cheapside, with whom he had lived as coachman for some time.

Catley being cautious, kept the instrument, and advised with his master on the propriety of signing it. The honest quaker being shocked at the iniquity of the proceeding, applied to his lawyer, who advised the father to detain the instrument entirely, to commence a criminal prosecution against the parties, and Mr. Berkley agreeing to supply him with the means, accordingly, on the 13th of May, 1763, his counsel moved the court of King's Bench for a rule to shew cause why an information should not issue against Sir Francis Blake Delaval, Bates the music master, and Fraine the attorney.

The offence alledged in this application was a conspiracy to debauch the daughter of
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the prosecutor, under the forms of law; and the motion was accompanied by another, which was for a Habeas Corpus, directed to Sir Francis Delaval, to bring in the body of Ann Catley.

On the ensuing day Nan was brought into court by Sir Francis, and was then discharged out of his custody, without any order to restrain her from returning to any place she pleased.

Old Catley thinking that the discharge of his daughter from the custody of Sir Francis, was virtually the committing of her to the custody of himself, attempted to seize her in court, but this being complained of, would not be permitted, and he was severely reprimanded for the contempt by the chief justice. The girl was then asked if she chose to return with her father, upon which a spirit the most audacious, and an unblushing countenance, she declared her attachment to Sir Francis and her aversion to return with her father.

Sir Fletcher Norton the solicitor general and counsel for the defendants then prayed that the court should give proper directions for the protection of Miss Catley from violence.

The Court hesitated on this point. Lord
E. Mansfield.

Mansfield observing that the granting of such protection depended upon the circumstances of the case. That some times they would go so far as to send an officer home with the party, at other times, they would only protect in the face of the open court. It might, or, it might not be proper, for a father to have the custody of his child, under age, when arrived at the years of discretion; but in the present case the father seemed to have assigned over his parental authority to Bates the Master, by the indentures of apprenticeship. "however" his lordship added "let cause be shewn on the information the last day of term, and let the girl and her master then attend and in the mean time let no person dare to molest her or the court will punish them."

When cause came to be shewn, the affidavits on both sides being read, and the arguments of counsel being heard, the court declared, that the conduct of Nan appeared to be so thoroughly vicious, that they had no hopes of reclaiming her, and that the only question was, whether any temporal crime had been committed deserving the interposition of the court; and they added, they were led to believe that the girl had been deceived by conspiracy and that the father and mother were originally parties to it, though the father appeared in the light of a prosecutor.

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The sketch already given of Nan's nativity, infancy, and intrigue with the linen draper of the Minories, shew how wrong the court were in their suspicion on the cause of her seduction, and their ultimate decision will prove that they were also wrong in their opinion of her father; but the fact of the mother living with in the very lodgings where she was kept by Sir Francis, puts her turpitude beyond all doubt.

As to the delivery of Nan's person to her father on the Habeas Corpus, Sir Fletcher Norton the solicitor general observed, " that the court have been ever very reluctant to do any thing but release from the confinement," and in support of this position he cited several cases.

Lord Mansfield in answer to the solicitor general's arguments, said, " We have considered those cases very fully; we think what was done in all of them was very right; but we do not agree with what was said in the books about them. In the case of words not *ipse juris*, the court is bound to protect them, and wherever the court does not think proper to deliver the parties into any special custody, they will privilege them *re deundo*. If the court refuses that, it impliedly directs the

the parties to break the peace, even in Palace-yard."

As this opinion of the court left Nan at perfect liberty, no sooner had the chief justice concluded, than she put her hand under the arm of Sir Francis, and they left the court together, returning home in his chariot which waited for them at Westminster-hall gate, to laugh at all parties, particularly the judges and barristers, whom this facetious female frequently after turned into the highest ridicule.

During this part of the proceeding, the court had a strong suspicion that the father was concerned in the conspiracy; however on the day when final judgment was pronounced, lord Mansfield said, "that upon the new affidavits which had been laid before the judges, he had fully justified himself, and appeared to be an innocent and an injured man." His lordship then added, "In respect to the indenture of apprenticeship, it is so gross upon the face of it, that a court of justice cannot but animadvert upon it with severity. It is plainly calculated for the purpose of prostitution only;" and he termed the consideration given by Sir Francis to Bates, "*premium prostitutionis*." He added——
 "Though there are species of indecency and
 immorality

immorality particularly in cases of incontinency, which are confined to the ecclesiastical courts, and I am glad they are so, yet the general inspection and superintendance of the morals of the people belongs to this court as *custos morum* of the nation, especially when the offence is mixed with confederacy and conspiracy, as in the present case."

His lordship then stated the case of one Curl, and also the case of Sir Charles Sedley, who was punished in the court of King's Bench by an information founded on his having danced openly and quite naked in a balcony belonging to a house in Covent-garden. This was in the reign of Charles the second, and Sir Charles was convicted and heavily fined.

His lordship proceeded, "Bates the master stands in the worst light of all: by taking the girl as his apprentice, he was *locus parentis*; yet he is privy to the fact of her living all the winter in a state of prostitution, and gives no intimation of it to her father. In February indeed he tells him she neglected her lessons, and had been riding in the Park, attended by Sir Francis Delaval's servant. In April comes on the transaction now complained of, into which Bates readily enters without consulting the father, upon the single authority

authority of a girl whom he had reason to suspect, who told him her father approved of it. He appears by his conduct, and from comparing the affidavits of the girl with his own, to have intended to favour her going to live with Sir Francis, though in his affidavit he has positively denied such intention."

"The next in degree of guilt is Fraine the attorney, whom I have formerly known in business to be a man of a fair character. But he has knowingly drawn this deed. And if a gentleman of the profession will advisedly engage in such a thing, for such a purpose, the court must animadvert upon it."

"Sir Francis Delaval has in the whole affair acted very ill, as well as very unwisely. His only plea is a very poor one, that the woman tempted him, and he complied from his regard to her."

"Therefore, let a rule for an information be made absolute against the three, Delaval, Fraine, and Bates."

The consequence of this opinion, solemnly pronounced by the court of King's Bench, against the defendants was, a trial by a petty jury, on which a number of bon mots and entendres were thrown out by the counsel on both sides, and received with great glee and
pleasantry

pleasantry by the learned judge; notwithstanding the severity of his previous reprobation, and grave assertion, of the court of King's Bench being *custos morum* of the nation.—It was observed that Sir Francis was totally ignorant of *music*, though probably he knew how to handle an *instrument*. That if he had not instructed Miss Catley in *singing*, he certainly taught her how to *ride*, and had put crotchets into her head. This sport of the court and the unconcerned auditors was, however, of serious consequence to Sir Francis, he and the two defendants were found guilty by the jury, and in the ensuing term, were heavily fined, the whole amount of which, as well as of the costs, which were very considerable falling upon him.

Catley, though of a sprightly disposition, and apparently of a volatile spirit, yet never lost sight of her own interest. Sir Francis had possession of her person, but was never master of her heart, and there is no doubt, but that even while she resided with him, and appeared in public as his mistress, she privately granted favours to others for pecuniary considerations. A diamond to her was an inestimable argument as to Madame Sc---l-e---g.—It won her last favour as effectually as it gains the old German's interest. Her passions were strong, but she was totally destitute
of

of sentiment and delicacy, and always gratified her appetite with a view to her interest as well as to her taste; being attached to the whole sex without harbouring a particular fondness to any individual, she measured love by profit, and enjoyed sensual indulgence without the least relish for mental satisfaction.

Macklin was the person who first discovered her talents for the stage, and she cultivated them under his tuition with assiduity and success; for notwithstanding she pleased most when least natural and most outre, yet there was great capability in her mind; she could assume chaste acting, and executed many characters of difficulty with critical justice.

Time, possession, and infidelity, having at last cooled the passion of Sir Francis, he effected an emancipation from the fascinating chains of his mistress, who, by the advice of her venerable instructor, the father of the stage, made a trip to Ireland.

Her reception in "the land of saints" fully answered her most sanguine expectations; she drew overflowing audiences, who applauded her to "the very echo," and raised considerable sums for herself and the manager. In Dublin, however, a circumstance occurred, which for a time considerably damped her spirits,

spirits, and mortified her pride. Nan was not an only child ; she had a sister named Mary, whom she took into her family for the purpose of superintending two children, one of whom she taught to call Sir Francis Delaval father, the other she honoured with royal blood, named him Edward, and gave him for a sire his Royal Highness the late Duke of York.

It must be acknowledged by Nan's best friends, that she did not behave affectionately to her sister Poll. The girl was kept at a distance, treated as a servant, and, as Nan's disposition often broke out with all the unbounded virulence of a vulgar termagant, the poor devil suffered not only from the abuse of her tongue, which was pointed and poisoned like that of an asp, but also from the violence of her fists, and sharpness of her nails, which she could exercise with such agility and effect, that a black eye, or bloody nose and cheeks were frequently the consequence.

This ill usage, which was almost daily repeated, determined poor Poll to quit her sister. She had a good voice, though uncultivated, a small neat smart person, and good eyes ; but the small-pox had ravaged the charms of her face, which, however, displayed the lily and the rose, so that she was desirable, though not
 F beautiful,

beautiful, and had many admirers. One of these, who preferred that ideal charm virginity to all others a woman can boast, laid close siege to Poll. For a considerable time she rejected his addresses, till at last, wearied out by the repeated ill usage of her tyranical sister, who rendered home a hell, she flew to the protection of her lover.

The rage of Nan on this occasion is not easily described; cups, saucers, every article at hand flew about the house; she felt for the honour of her family, and a violent hysteric was the consequence. Recovering from this paroxysm of rage and pride, she became calm and vindictive; and having relieved her oppressed mind by a shower of tears, and a torrent of abuse against the cause of her grief, made a positive vow never to see or relieve her runaway-sister in any situation, which vow she kept most religiously.

Poll's charms, as has been already hinted at, were not very fascinating, and her lover having, in his own opinion, taken that which is always lost in the finding, and which in fact was the only object of his desire, or rather of his vanity, soon became disgusted with his mistress, whom he one day fortunately caught in an amour with a student of Dublin College, and of course dismissed her on this positive

sitive proof of infidelity. Poll having collected the few presents he had made her, coolly took leave of her injured keeper, with an observation that stung him to the heart. She assured him he had not the sin of her seduction to answer for; and, that the prize he held in such high estimation, never came to his possession, it having been gained by a knight of the flambeaux, in vulgar phrase a footman, some years before.

Poll's new lover, the collegian, though rich in learning was poor in purse; but he was young and agreeable qualities of high estimation with every female, and which had such effect on this lady, that notwithstanding several overtures had been made, she rejected them all, and for near six months lived, or rather starved, in fidelity with the man of letters. "Love (says the old proverb) flies out of the window when poverty enters the door." The adage, however, was not illustrated by the conduct of Poll, who, for a considerable time after poverty had taken possession of her apartment, dispensed her favours to casual admirers for pecuniary returns, with which she constantly supplied the wants of her favourite swain. These indiscriminate amours at last produced effects the most disagreeable—Poll was obliged to retire into Dr. Stephens's hospital near Dublin, and the student was taken

home by his friends, but his disease baffled every art ; the violence of the medicines administered, and the process of cure he underwent, reduced him to a decline, without radically expelling the virulent poison in his blood, and he died a miserable martyr to gross debauchery.

Poll, however, recovered, and having a tolerable voice, and a name which would make an attracting figure in a country play bill, got an engagement in a strolling company, from which time Fame has neglected to report the incidents of her life.

In Ireland it is certain that Nan had many intrigues, in most of which she acted with caution and prudence. Such amours as had merely pleasure in view, were mostly confined to the gentlemen of the sock and buskin, with the great profit was always her object, and secrecy a part of the condition she imposed upon her lovers. Being herself independent of the world, and freed from every species of controul, her amours offered no variety of incident ; she received her lovers with ease ; if they did not rise to her price, she dismissed them with apathy, and that price was always proportioned to the idea Nan formed of their fortune. By this means, and the profits of her profession, Nan's finances encreased considerably,

considerably, and she prudently secured and increased it, always living much below her income. There never was a greater favourite in Dublin, nor indeed a more deserving one, for on every opportunity she obliged the public, and by them was constantly rewarded at her benefit.

She was perhaps the only woman of easy virtue that ever received countenance on the stage from the modest women of Ireland; but they looked upon her as an eccentric character, making proper allowances for her early habits, and imputed her failings more to early misfortune than to vice.

At this time the reverend Dean Bailey was a principal superintendant to most of the public charities, and it having been determined that a concert should be performed for the benefit of the lying-in hospital, the dean, who was particularly attentive to this charity, took upon him to engage Catley to sing at the concert, and wrote her a card to the following purport: "Dean Bailey's compliments to Miss Catley, and requests to know when she can give him *a night* at the lying-in hospital, and her terms." On this card Nan put a jocular interpretation, and returned for answer, "Miss Catley presents her compliments to the reverend Dean Bailey, for three nights to come

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come she is engaged to particular friends, but on the fourth will be at his service." This produced a laugh against the dean, but in the end served the charity, for which Nan sung gratis.

The world has often heard of Lord R——, who a few years ago was tried at the Quarter Sessions of Dublin, upon a charge which if true, would have been the most disgraceful to him, as it is disgusting and shocking to mankind. The manners of this nobleman abounds with peculiarities. He is tall and bony in person, yet effeminate in every action; with a skin tawny as a mullato, and a beard thick, strong and black as that of a Swiss; he affects the delicacy and nervous sensations of a sickly girl. Some ill dæmon put it into his lordship's head to have an affair with Miss Catley; probably for the purpose of lessening the effect of several evil suspicions which then flew about, materially to the injury of his character, in respect to the affection of his passions.

The noble lord had not at this time attained the considerable estates which he now inherits from his father; and which might have accounted for the economic plan by which he approached Miss Catley, if it was not known that even then he abounded in wealth, and that parsimony was among his faults—He
waited

waited on Nan one evening soon after she had returned from performing Captain Flash in the farce of Miss in her Teens, in which character, the appearance being masculine, for Nan was then an excellent breeches figure, she had struck his eye, and raised ideas very difficult for persons of his lordship's taste to suppress. Nan on her return had sat down to prepare supper for a few theatrical friends whom she intended to treat with a roast duck, and having recently parted with her servant, was officiating as cook at her bed-chamber fire, where the duck hung pendant from a string.

His lordship having been announced by the landlady, was ordered to be ushered in.—In a few complimentary excuses, he apologized for so abrupt a visit, declared his passion was pure and disinterested, and regretted in very pointed terms that so fine a shape should be concealed by petticoats. Nan received his address with affected complaisance and satisfaction; swore that had she expected the pleasure of his lordship's company, he should not have found her in dishabille, and pressed him to do her the honour of picking the breast of the bird that was then roasting—Nothing could be more agreeable to his lordship's disposition than this invitation. He praised Catley for her œconomy in doing her own business, and then he praised the duck—She turned the string,

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string, he handed the drudging-box—never was lord more happy, till in the midst of his culinary offices, a knocking at the door gave an alarm. Nan was then in lodgings, with the exclusive privilege of monopolizing the hall-door to her own use. “It must be some person to me, (said Nan) for Heaven’s sake my lord turn the duck while I run to the door.” His lordship obeyed, and placing himself upon a little stool which Nan had occupied by the fire side, commenced his new profession of cook with extraordinary satisfaction and adroitness.

Nan’s theatrical visitors, for it was they who were at the door, having been conducted into the drawing-room, where the cloth was laid; she welcomed them with an assurance that the supper she had provided was not only good, but had been dressed by one of the first cooks in Europe, and opening the door suddenly, introduced the astonished lord to their wondering eyes.

“Take care cooky, (said Nan) if the duck be burned, I shall certainly discharge you from your place.”

The degenerate nobleman felt to the very soul the contemptible situation to which his passion for a fine breeches figure had reduced him.

him. He arose from the stool overwhelmed with confusion; his dress was brown velvet embroidered with gold, point ruffles and a bag, at his side hung a sword and elegant knot, in his hand he held a basting-ladle dropping butter.

Fancy may easily paint his lordship's figure on her tablets; but to give the true delineation and *contour* of humour to the eye, requires the execution of a Hogarth or a Bunbury. It was nature metamorphosed by the workings of shame and surprize, into the most extravagant contortions of caricature. Nor were the painters the engravers or the poets idle on the subject; his lordship was sketched in aquafortis, stuck up in every print shop, and lampooned in every news-paper.

Another anecdote which took place nearly at this period, does equal credit to Nan's humour and understanding. She had been long solicited in an amorous strain by an old dissipated debauchee who followed the wine business. This fellow in appearance and mind was the perfect representative of a satyr: worn out in debauchery, he could neither enjoy women nor give up the pursuit, and notwithstanding his ugliness and debility was inflated with vanity, and imputed to the influence of his address, person and conversation the success

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and attachments which resulted solely from the power of his money, or rather indeed the money of his creditors which he squandered in a most shameful manner; though husband to an amiable wife, and father of several children.

Nan having repelled every effort that the trader's cunning could invent to entrap her into compliance with his wishes, he resolved to attack her gratitude by paying tribute to her avarice, and for this purpose sent a large hamper of champagne, assuring her that the celler it came from was at her service, and afforded as great a variety as France, Spain, Portugal or Italy could supply. The wine was received, and a verbal message of thanks returned, but the very same evening it was sent back to the merchant's house, with a card directed to his wife, informing her of the fact.

After supper that night, Mrs. O'H—— the merchant's wife proposed a glass of champagne. The husband stared and railed at her extravagance. She answered, "the champagne I wish for is my own; I have had it as a present—see here!" And she shewed Nan's card to her mortified spouse.

It has already been observed, that Miss Catley was avaricious, yet she had her favourites who succeeded in duping her even out of her money. Her connection with Major F--m--g,

m—g, who was aid de camp to the lord lieutenant of Ireland, when she resided in that kingdom, was by no means advantageous. The major was penurious, not only from disposition but necessity, and Nan certainly shared with him; not only her favours but her purse. With Captain C—e, who succeeded the major as cicerone, she was equally infatuated, and yet never did nature produce a stronger contrast between two men. F—g was tall, strong, and manly. Clarke was not above the middle size, weak and effeminate, he patched and painted like a woman, and in appearance, bore stronger resemblance to an eunuch, than to a man. Yet to this insect, was Catley attached; on this insect she bestowed considerable sums, though she used frequently, and even in his presence, rally her own choice, declaring that he in no one respect, was suited to qualify a woman of gallantry.

From the fascinating spell with which this petit maitre, trammelled the affections of Nan, she was freed by the exorcisms of General L—s, then only a captain in the army. With this gentleman she loved many years in the character of his mistress, applying herself sedulously to her professions, and appropriating the earnings of it to the uses of her family. She bore him several children,

and her maternal fondness was truly exemplary. Her former levity gave way to domestic decorum, and her faults were only to be found in a retrospective view of her life. This behaviour raised such a disinterested and generous affection, in the heart of her friend, that he resolved to bestow upon her the highest reward in his power, and actually made her his wife.

Nan would not be out done in generosity, before she accepted the hand of Colonel L-f-c---s, for he was a colonel when he married her, she insisted that certain preliminary articles should be ratified. The principal of these were, that her fortune should go to her children; that she should continue to play, while her health permitted her, and that the marriage should be kept secret till she retired from the stage.

She did not, however, continue long in a public line, after she became a wife, the ensuing season she engaged with the manager of Covent Garden Theatre, and it proved the last of her appearance. Her voice was then considerably weakened, and her vivacity evidently diminished. She attempted the character of Macheath, in the Beggars Opera, but she was then nothing better than the shadow and echo of what she had been, and her exertions

ertions to please, only excited the pity, not the approbation of the audience.

After leaving the stage, she took up her abode in Ealing, Middlesex, and was much respected by the better sort of people in the neighbourhood, and beloved by the poor, to whom she became a beneficent friend. She died in this retirement, in the 44th year of her age, and was buried in Ealing church, with every mark of attention and respect, that a husband could possibly shew to a wife whom he tenderly loved.

Her disease was a consumption, to which she had been inclined from her youth, and which probably was accelerated by her early indulgencies in dissipation, and great exertion of voice which injured her lungs. She bore its progress with resignation, and died in that most enviable of all states at peace with the world, and in strong hopes of eternal bliss.

Miss Catley had great capabilities for an actress, and notwithstanding her vivacious appearance would have succeeded not only in comedy, but tragedy, had she made them her study; but her voice was so exquisite, she had no occasion for further aid. Its native strains exceeded the vocal powers of all who went before,

before, or has succeeded her, yet she often evinced a deficiency of judgment.

Rosetta in *Love in a Village*, and Euphrosyne in *Comus*, were her best performances. In the latter it may not be going too far, to assert she never was equalled, particularly in the song of "The wanton god that pierces hearts"—which she gave in a characteristic style of levity, that left all competition at a distance. And in the former, her singing was truly exquisite and replete with native humour. Soon after the affair with Lord R——, and the roast Duck which has been stated, that nobleman came into the stage box while she was singing "The wanton god," and when she came to the line "No squeamish fop shall spoil my rest," she turned full upon his lordship, with a look of archness, so pointed and so marked with contempt, that the mortified nobleman rose from his seat, and left her to enjoy the thundering plaudits of the audience, which were given in peals accompanied by bursts of laughter.

In the *Maid of the Mill* she often performed *Patty*, and not without pathos, and when Mrs. Abington was in Ireland, during the late Mr. Mossop's management, Catly often performed in a style of the highest spirit and humour. Captain Flash, in contrast to the
other

other lady's Fribble, which was also excellent. Catley was not vain, for though she took every possible pains to set off her person and face to advantage when she appeared in juvenile parts, yet, as the representative of old Dorcas in Thomas and Sally, she was equally attentive to appear antient.

Catley was not beautiful but pleasing. Her face was oval, her features petit, and her eyes small; her forehead being remarkably high, she always wore her dark hair, which was thin and lank, cut down upon it like a fan, and this at last became a general fashion, under the denomination of Catlified hair, and as it gives a peculiar archness to the countenance, is still in vogue among the lower classes of those ladies who strole the streets, and retail their favours to casual customers. Catley was remarkably thin, her bones small, her skin brown, and all covered over with freckles, yet her tout en-semble was pleasing, when she was made up and on the stage.

Much has been said of Miss Catley's wit, by those who have mistaken her talent; her bon mots were those of broad and vulgar humour, they were deficient in that polish, sharpness, and neatness, which produce the genuine brightness of conversation, her points were not those of raillery, but of railing, they came
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out gross as if issuing from a cellar in St. Giles, or which was the fact, as if they had received their original impression in a garret near the tower. Of this class was her ejaculations in the green-room, after a fatiguing performance, "thank heaven I have brought my a—to an anchor, and in the same stile, was her answer, to the Earl of Buckinghamshire, when lord lieutenant of Ireland on his excellency's requesting she would introduce the song of "Push about the jorum," from the Golden Pippin, into a character where there was no possibility of its appearing naturally—"tell his excellency" said she, "I will not only do it, but if he be fond of *fighths*, I'll stand upon my head to please him"—The best thing recorded of her, requires delicacy to express it without offending, though Nan gave it with all the force and plainness of the vulgar tongue. Her Irish connections never produced a child, on which circumstance she was once rallied. "It is extraordinary" said an impertinent coxcomb to her, "considering the character of the Irish, that you never had a child by any of them"—"It is easily accounted" for answered Nan, "their manner is beyond *conception*."

A retrospect of Miss Catley's life, when compared with that of the celebrated Nell Gwynn, exhibits many incidents of strong
similitude.

similitude, Nell was born of obscure parents, so was Nan; Nell was born in a cellar in the Cole-yard Drury-lane; Nan was born in a garret in a wretched ally near Tower Hill. Some reported that Nell was the doubtful daughter of a battalion of soldiers, Nan's mother washed for a garrison, long before her daughter was born, and her conduct after Nan had been seduced, raises strong suspicion that she was not cruel to her customers. Nell when first taken notice of, sold oranges, and resorted to public houses. Nan when young, sung in ale houses for hire. Nell when almost a child, was debauched by one Mr. Duncan, a merchant. Nan soon after she entered her teens, surrendered her virginity to a linen draper. Nell was remarkable for smartness of conversation, so was Nan. Nell's answer to Lord Rochester, is exactly such as might be expected from Nan—To vex her his lordship once exclaimed:

“By all the gods of Hellespont and Greece;
“I had my hand upon her Golden Fleece.”

The answer was—

“By all the gods of Greece and Hellespont,
“You lie my lord your hand was never on't.”

Nell was an actress in great vogue, so was Nan. To Nell lords and Dukes paid their addresse's, so they did to Nan. Nell was the mistress of a king, Nan had an amour with a prince of the blood royal.

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“ This shews that sultans, emperors, and kings,
 “ When blood boils high, will stoop to meanest things.”

Nell was of a gay frolicksome disposition, so was Nan, of Nell many droll passages have been reported, so of Nan, but in respect to both ladies, some of their sayings should be suppressed as being too loose for the public ear; one of Nell Gwynn's, however, is so excellent for its satire, that to report it cannot be considered impertinent.

Having once by an unlucky run of ill luck at gaming, lost all her money and run in debt with Sir John Germain, he took the advantage of making such a proposal for the easy payment thereof, as may be easily guessed at by her answer, for she replied with equal smartness, and fidelity to her royal keeper, “ I am no such a sportswoman as to lay the dog where the deer should lie.” Such an answer as this, in such a situation, might have been expected from Nan.

Nell's air was free and degagee; so was the carriage of Nan, Nell had spirit and pleasantry, so had Nan. She had professed more charity and generosity, than most women of her situation in life, so did Nan, and here an instance may be given, which illustrates this part of our heroine's character. Mr. Linton a musician belonging to the band of Covent Garden

Garden theatre, having been inhumanly murdered by foot-pads, Mr. Harris the manager, gave his widow and children, a free benefit. A short time previous to the benefit night, Nan went to a masquerade, in the character of an orange girl, with several dozen box tickets in her basket; these she disposed of among the company, for a very considerable sum, over their usual price, which with ten guineas added by herself, she sent the next day to the unfortunate family.

As in their lives, so in their deaths, there was a strong similarity between Nell Gwynn, and Nan Catley, except that Nell lived to be much older than Nan. But she certainly died with a moral and religious mind, or Doctor Tenison, afterwards archbishop of Canterbury, would not have preached her funeral sermon. And this was the opinion of Queen Mary, who, when the Earl of Jersey urged the circumstance to prevent the doctor's preferment, to the see of Lincoln, answered "It was a sign that this unfortunate woman died penitent; for if I can read a man's heart through his looks, had she not made a truly pious and christian end, the doctor would never have been induced to speak well of her." Just such an end did Catley make, dying in charity with the world, and in lamenting that the early parts of her life had not been equally virtuous and honourable with her latter days.

Miss

MISS CATLEY'S WILL.

The following is an abstract of the will of the late Miss CATLEY, as proved and deposited in Doctor's-Commons: it is all in her own hand-writing, and is signed ANN CATELEY; from which it appears, she spelt her name *Cateley*, not Catley, as generally understood. The probate proves her to have died worth 5000*l.* but what above that sum it is impossible, from the will to ascertain.

She gives all her property, of every sort and denomination whatever, (save and except her wearing apparel, watch, trinkets, &c. which she gives to her eldest daughter living at her death) to and equally amongst her eight children, William Francis Lascelles, Rowley Lascelles, Frances Lascelles, Charlotte Lascelles, Jane Lascelles, George Robert Lascelles, Elizabeth Lascelles, and Edward Robert Lascelles, and the survivor or survivors of them, the shares to be paid to such of them as shall be twenty-one years of age, and the shares of such as shall be under that age to be vested in the funds, and the interest to be paid for their education till that age.

By a codicil to her will, she gives to her nephews, Robert and William Fox, 50*l.* each, and appoints Major-General Francis Lascelles, Esq. Executor, with a legacy of 10*l.* for a mourning-ring.

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